



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Makoto KONDO

Application No.: 09/803,920

Filed: March 13, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2851

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Docket No.: 108920

For: SUBSTRATE HOLDING APPARATUS AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS
INCLUDING SUBSTRATE HOLDING APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement mailed May 23, 2002, Applicant provisionally elects the Species providing a substrate holding apparatus, which can reduce a deformation of a substrate with respect to the contact area of the substrate and the substrate holder, Figures 1A, 1B, 2, 3A, 3B, 4 and 6. Applicant submits that claims 1-5 and 15-21 are readable on the elected species. This election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of the any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which is stated that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application to avoid

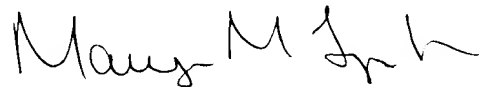
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unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 13, 2001.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-27 can be examined without undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Election of Species Requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 20, 2002

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